Train buffs get Friend of LTA award

SGTrains Trainspotters lauded for participation, feedback on rail system

By Rosyton Soh

WHEN the final stretch of the Circle Line opened in November last year, a group of rail enthusiasts noticed that some commuters were unfamiliar travelling to Dhoby Ghaut MRT station from Harbourfront.

They could either take a 10-minute journey on the North-East Line (NEL) or take a roundabout route on the Circle Line, which could take an hour.

The Trainspotters group members suggested that signages be improved on the NEL or at the station.

At HarbourFront station, signs still point commuters towards stations on the Circle Line, which they believed was not the closest station.

Speaking at the ceremony last night, Transport Minister Lan Tack Yew praised the Trainspotters for its contributions.

"They are vocal in the group, which is more than 100 strong: ‘They are young people who need to be taken seriously. They say what it is to be active citizens.’"

The two-year-old group takes part in LTA activities such as focus-group discussions and visits to station sites.

Awards

Award winners

- Most service-orientated individual (public transport): manager of CB Tan Eng Suan, SBS Transit
- Most service agent: Yeong, taxi driver, SMRT Taxis
- Customer service leader: SMRT; Mr Eric Tan, captain, SBS Transit
- Friend of land transport: SGTrains Trainspotters, a two-year-old group with over 100 members that takes part in LTA activities like discussions and station visits.
- Young innovator: Yeong, taxi driver, SMRT Taxis
- Land transport ambassador: Mr Kenneth Yap, a 20-year-old student, recalled that its group members had suggested a way of stabilising the vertical grab poles in train cabins by affixing brackets to them. The brackets are still in use today.

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The Transport Thought Leader award was among six awards given out for the first time, with SMU University (World) chancellor and chairman Cham Tao Soon being the first recipient.

"For our seniors to age in place, we have to pay attention to their needs," he said. "For our seniors to age in place, we have to pay attention to their needs."